THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the debt relief provided to farmers during the year 1990-91. It may be stated that Government of India formulated the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 for providing debt relief to a selected category of borrowers of public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) who complied with eligibility criteria prescribed under the Scheme. The State Governments also formulated their own schemes for borrowers of cooperatives. The public sector banks and RRBs were to be reimbursed as per extant policy guidelines by the Central Government on account of such debt relief provided by the banks. The reimbursement to cooperative banks was to be shared between the State Government and Central Government on a 50 : 50 basis.

Under the Scheme, which was made effective from 15th May, 1990, debt relief was provided to cover the overdues of the eligible borrowers who had taken loans from cooperative banks, RRBs and public sector banks as on 2nd October, 1989 and the relief amount was limited upto Rs. 10,000- per borrower. The ARDR Scheme has come to a close on 31st March, 1991.

(b) and (c) The claims of institutions have been settled in full as per the extant policy guidelines.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Tobacco

3558. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tobacco exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of last three years;

(b) how much virginia tobacco from Andhra Pradesh was exported;

(c) whether prices of virginia tobacco were competitive to that of other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide incentive to the tobacco growers to earn foreign exchange; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of tobacco exported during the last three years are as follows :

(Quantity : Tonnes; Value : Rs. Crores)

Item	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Tobacco	104676	461.19	53732	254.75	71430	365.81

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Exports of tobacco were not classified by State of origin of the product.

(c) and (d) The prices of tobacco prevailing in the international and domestic markets are as such not comparable on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality, additional expenditures incurred in grading and packaging for exports, domestic processing conditions and terms of trade.

(e) and (f) Some of the steps taken by Tobacco Board to enhance productio, productivity and quality of tobacco as an incentive to enhance exports are :

(i) Supply of seeds/seedlings of high yielding and disease resistant varieties of FCV/Burley tobacco;

(ii) Pest and disease control through fumigation of nurseries;

(iii) Encouraging use of sprinkler irrigation system;

(iv) Improving curing and storing facilities;

(v) Arranging supply of inputs such as coal (for curing), fertilisers, and suckercides, and

(vi) training and exposure of farmers to latest research findings.

Transfer of Shares

3559. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit under section 113 of the Companies Act, 1956 has been fixed for registration of transfer of shares, debentures etc. by Limited Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the penalties prescribed for violation of these guidelines;

(c) whether the SEBI has been obtaining such information from the Companies;

(d) if so, the details of fines, penalties collected from the defaulting Companies, company-wise;

(e) whether the Deptt. of Company Affairs has

dropped punitive action an any case or permitted compounding of the offence; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Section 113(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 provides that every company shall deliver certificates of shares, debentures or debenture stocks to the transferee within two months after the application for registration of transfer of such shares, debentures and debenture stocks.

The Company Law Board may, however, on an application being made to it in this behalf by the Company, extend this time limit to a further period not exceeding nine months in case of debentures and debenture stocks if it is satisfied that it is not possible for the company to deliver such certificates within the said period.

Section 113(2) provides that if default is made in compiling with sub-section (1), the company and every officer of the company who is in default shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 500/- for every day during which the default continues.

(c) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deposit of Funds by PSUs

3560. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Public Sector Undertakings are required to bank with and deposit their funds, if any, only in the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, whether there has been a change of the policy in recent years permitting Public Sector Undertakings to deal in the financial matters with private sector and foreign banks; and

(c) if so, the date from which such changes have been made effective and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) According to the existing instructions dated 3.1.92 the public enterprises can undertake normal banking transactions with any bank of their choice. However, for deposit of their surplus funds, as per instructions dated 14.12.94, the PSUs are permitted to deposit with any scheduled commercial bank incorporated in India subject to their fulfilling certain conditions. The changes were effected in order to avoid instances of misuse of funds.

Leather Industry

3561. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to improve and develop the leather industry and make it internationally competitive; and

(b) if so, the details of the international agencies assisting in our leather sector and the nature of assistance being provided by them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) For the integrated development of the leather industry in India, a comprehensive scheme titled 'National Leather Development Programme' has been drawn up by the Ministry of Industry and is being implemented with the assistance received from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

(b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Under the National Leather Development Programme international collaborations have been established and implemented in the following areas :

Sl. No.	Name of the Indian Institution	Name of the Foreign Agency	Subject
01.	Footwear Design and Development Institute Noida (UP).	1. Melbourne College of Textiles, Australia	Footwear Technology
		2. Bally International, Switzerland	Establishment of International standard Testing Centre.